



FI Newsletter

The Town of Fenwick Island

800 Coastal Highway

Fenwick Island DE 19944

Winter 2009

Greetings to All!

Fall has been a very quick season this year. It seems like we have been visited by one nor'easter after another. This has left us with very little beautiful Fall weather as we are accustomed to. Believe it or not, Thanksgiving is just around the corner.

Fenwick will soon become a quiet off-season community. Many of our residents will be back in their primary home and some will be wintering in another area and returning in the Spring. If you have received a letter from our Police Department, please take a moment to complete it as this certainly will help them perform their jobs much more efficiently and can be a tremendous help to you if the need should arise.

This is the time that our growing year-round population enjoy their town and take time to visit their neighbors. Our Police Department again is offering to provide a home inspection to help make your residence safer. Please call Chief Boyden to set an appointment.

I recently attended a dedication held at our new enlarged Coastal Library located in Bethany Beach. What a great facility we have for our use right in our backyard. Not only does it offer material for reading and research but also an area suitable for large group meetings. If you are not already a member, stop in and become one.

There are many happenings being planned in Fenwick Island. The Bethany Beach Volunteer Fire Company and the Town will be partnering for a Christmas Tree Lighting. A group is beginning to assess our 2009 "Old Fenwick Island Days" activities and to plan what the next function will be.

Please visit the Town website to stay abreast of all that is happening within our town whether it be Council meetings, Committee meetings or Social events.

Wishing each of you Happy Holidays and a Happy and Healthy New Year!

Audrey Serio, Mayor & Council President

Town Manager's Report

Those lazy, hazy days of summer are behind us now. In the month of October we experienced back-to-back coastal storms with high tides and street flooding. At Town Hall we have increased our level of training and in-house preparations. An upgrade to the Town marquee will include a generator to back-up the power supply during outages.

What are you doing at your home in Fenwick Island? Have you provided emergency contact information to the Town Hall? Have you copied or scanned your documents and stored them in a place that is *not* within your home? What about flashlights and radios? Have the batteries been changed?

The Town is making itself ready to help you, but homeowners need to take steps that will make them more prepared, too. For tips, pick up a brochure at the Town Hall or visit www.dema.delaware.gov/services/disaster_prep.shtml.

In other news, the month of July brought some unpleasant news to Delaware towns and cities. Budget-cutting at the State Capitol has resulted in the elimination of the Municipal Street Aid Fund. This fund helped Fenwick Island to not only maintain its streets, but also to pay for street lights. Street lights make walking at night safer and are known to reduce the likelihood of burglaries and petty crime. Our street lights will stay "on," but the lack of state funding is going to make paying for the service difficult to say the least. Thank you for your understanding as we all work through these difficult times together.

Finally, look for a mailing regarding the BBVFC Memorial Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony. You will have an opportunity to honor a loved one while supporting the fire company through the sponsorship of a memorial decorative bulb. The First State Harmonettes Chorus will surely delight all who can attend this joyous occasion. I look forward to seeing you there.

Win Abbott, Town Manager

Memorial Christmas Tree Lighting



The Town of Fenwick Island Annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony will be held at the Town Park on Friday, December 4, 2009 at 7:00 PM. This year's event is co-sponsored by the Bethany Beach Volunteer Fire Company. Please join us to kick off the holiday season. It promises to be a fun event.

Charter & Ordinance Committee

The Charter & Ordinance Committee continues to review Town ordinances at our monthly meeting. The Committee is working to update and simplify the ordinances. To achieve this goal we are examining every section of the chapters and then making recommendations to Council for possible changes. This is a long process that will continue for some time.

Recently Council approved two new ordinances relating to solar panels and wind turbines. The C&O committee will try to stay informed on any updates in these fast evolving industries that may be of benefit to our Town.

The Charter and Ordinance Committee meets the first Tuesday of the month at 9:30 AM. Members of the public are invited to attend.

Bill Weistling, Council Member

Environmental Committee

In keeping with the committee's Mission Statement "...to promote, protect and to improve the ecological integrity of the Fenwick Island community and the Little Assawoman Watershed Area," the Environmental Committee focuses its efforts on restorative and protective environmental projects. These have included providing free rain barrels to residents; planting trees and native shrubs; recertifying as a Tree City USA; and working with the C&O Committee to strengthen ordinances.

The Environmental Committee meets the second Wednesday of the month. Meetings are posted on the Town's website. We feature speakers at each meeting who address topics of interest to the community. The public is encouraged to attend and to share ideas about the issues under consideration.

Vicki Carmean, Council Member

Fenwick Island Police Department

The Fenwick Island Police Department had a busy summer season with emphasis on safety. We co-sponsored two pedestrian safety check points with the University of Delaware and these turned out to be a great success. We have already been in contact with the University for setting up more programs for the 2010 season. The check points supplied pedestrians as well as bikers with safety tips, reflectors and information on being safe on our streets.

Our police officers will again be performing property checks during the winter looking for unsecure and/or damaged property. With this in mind we do ask all property owners to make sure they secure their property when away, winterize if required and supply us with emergency contact information.

The police department would also like to offer all property owners the service of a home inspection. This service would include an officer going through your house and giving suggestions on how to make your property more secure and a safer place to live.

Over the winter we are also working on making it easier for us to communicate with you and you to communicate with us. We are working on a more interactive way for the citizens to get information, bulletins on crime and safety tips.

If you need to get in touch with us you can call the station during business hours (302.539.2000) or call the on duty officer (302.542.8793). If you have an emergency the fastest, and still the best thing to do, is to dial 911.

Just a reminder that you are asked to update your emergency contact information. More information is on our web page or contact Nancy Avery (302.539.3011).

Chief William H. Boyden

FLOOD INSURANCE

Fenwick Island is the only Town in the State of Delaware which lies entirely within the "100-Year Special Flood Hazard Area". This is due to the presence of flood sources (the Atlantic Ocean and the Little Assawoman Bay) both east and west of Town and exceptionally low ground elevations. There is at least a one-percent chance that properties will flood each year. In many parts of Fenwick Island, the risk of flooding is even greater.

The Town participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and has a Class 8 CRS rating that offers a 10% discount on flood insurance premiums to qualifying property owners. The NFIP makes federally backed flood insurance available for all buildings, whether they are in a floodplain or not. Flood insurance covers direct losses caused by surface flooding, including a river flowing over its banks, a lake or ocean storm and local drainage problems.

The NFIP insures buildings with two types of coverage: structural and contents. Structural coverage is for the walls, floors, insulations, furnace and other items permanently attached to the structure. Contents coverage may be purchased separately provided the contents are in an insurable building.

For additional information or copies of FEMA Elevation Certificates on buildings constructed in Fenwick Island since 1990, please contact Pat Schuchman (302.539.3011 X 205) or email pschuchman@fenwickisland.org

Pat Schuchman, Building Official



Shuffleboard League
Contact Mary Wright
302.539.6697 for
information.

Congratulations Fall Champions—
Helen Nappier and Sue Rhue!

Fenwick Island Beach Patrol

The summer of 2009 was another safe and successful one for the FIBP. Weather conditions varied in June while water temperature and surf conditions (rip currents) resulted in average activities and actions taken on the beach this summer with the exception of increased rescues due to Atlantic storms. Nonetheless, the guards did an outstanding job protecting our beach. We continued to upgrade and implement training regimens and standards as recommended and required by the United States Life-saving Association to ensure the finest training for our guards.

Our competition teams excelled once again this summer. The FIBP placed 1st in two of the six local and regional competitions (with three 2nd place finishes) and was topped off by another impressive showing at the National Championship held in Fort Lauderdale, FL. Our five person team did extremely well with a total of six medals. The ability to compete at this level definitely encourages the guards to work that much harder in our workouts and consequently we have very well trained lifeguards on the stand.

Our guards continued training exercises making sure that all USLA recommendations and standards are being upheld. These include more inclusive CPR, AED, and First Aid training as well as summer long training in rescues and drills. Along with the technical aspect of the training, our morning workouts were more intense and geared towards all aspects of the job. We also added a new regimen to our workouts by collaborating with World Gym in Ocean View to do a "Boot Camp" workout once a week. This ensured that guards were very physically fit and may have been a factor in doing well at the competitions.

The Junior Lifeguard program was a huge success this year. Over 100 children participated culminating in 20 of them competing in the Junior Lifeguard competition in Rehoboth Beach in August. The Advanced program also saw a big increase with 25 participants throughout the summer. Look for information in the spring on Summer 2010 programs.

We had an excellent and safe summer in 2009. Our staff was outstanding and I expect most to return next year. The Beach Patrol thanks the Town of Fenwick for their support and we look forward to the summer of 2010. To keep up to date and to obtain applications for employment and the Junior Lifeguard program, be sure to visit us at www.fenwickisland.delaware.gov/beach.htm.



Tim Ferry, Captain

Join us if you dare! Friday January 1, 2010 at 10:30 AM.
Meet at the Bayard Street beach. See attached flyer for
more information and to pre-register. See you there!

IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING TOWN ELECTIONS

ALL PERSONS WISHING TO VOTE IN GENERAL AND SPECIAL ELECTIONS
MUST REGISTER WITH THE TOWN OF FENWICK ISLAND

To obtain a voter registration form, please contact Town Hall
302.539.3011

or download a form at www.fenwickisland.delaware.gov/residents.htm

Ambulance Service Policy


Residents and property owners in Fenwick Island subscribe to an Ambulance Service that is managed by the Bethany Beach Volunteer Fire Company. This subscription is part of the annual property tax bill and offers particular benefits. You may visit the Town Hall for details. Fire and emergency rescue service by the Bethany Beach Volunteer Fire Company is separate from the Ambulance Service and continues to depend upon your tax-deductible voluntary contributions.

Subscribers to this service are the legal owners of any property in this service district, If there are multiple owners of the property, each owner is a subscriber. This status is effective whether the subscriber is on that property or elsewhere in the district. Renters and visitors of subscriber homes are treated as subscribers. Employees of business subscribers are covered, as well. Business invitees and guests of hotels are not, however.

The Town of Fenwick island assesses each parcel of property or sub-divided parcel, as is the case with condominiums and commercial buildings. This assessment for ambulance service is currently \$33 per year.

Both subscribers and non-subscribers will be rendered ambulance service when needed. Subscribers, though, will not be billed for any amount greater than that which is covered by their medical or other insurance.

The Bethany Beach Volunteer Fire Company operates this ambulance service as an entity that is separate from the fire and emergency rescue service. Your tax-deductible contributions to the fire company are both appreciated and essential to their continued operation. Thank you for your support of this vital program.

			
Town Council Audrey Serio Mayor, President of Council aserio@fenwickisland.org Todd Smallwood Deputy Mayor tsmallwood@fenwickisland.org Diane Tingle Secretary dtingle@fenwickisland.org Gardner Bunting Treasurer gbunting@fenwickisland.org Vicki Carmean vcarmean@fenwickisland.org Bill Weistling wweistling@fenwickisland.org Gene Langan glangan@fenwickisland.org Win Abbott Town Manager wabbott@fenwickisland.org Town Hall Phone Numbers Phone: 302.539.3011 Fax: 302.539.1305 Police Department Phone # Phone: 302.539.2000 Officer on Duty 302.542.8793 Emergency: 911		Council Calendar Friday, December 11, 2009 • Council Meeting 3:30pm Friday, January 22, 2010 • Council Meeting 3:30pm Friday, February 26, 2010 • Council Meeting 3:30pm Friday, March 26, 2010 • Council Meeting 3:30pm Friday, April 23, 2010 • Council Meeting 3:30pm Friday, May 21, 2010 • Council Meeting 3:30pm Friday June 25, 2010 • Council Meeting 3:30pm TOWN EVENTS Thursday/Friday November 26-27, 2009 • Town Hall Closed Thursday/Friday December 24-25, 2009 • Town Hall Closed Friday January 1, 2010 • Town Hall Closed • Fenwick Freeze 10:30 AM Friday, April 30, 2010 • Arbor Day	
		Residential Trash Collection Schedule 2009 –2010 Monday only Pick-up September 28 –April 26 Heavy Trash & Appliance Pick-up June 7, 8, & 9 September 8, 9, & 10 Monday & Thursday Pick-up May 3 –September 24	
		<u>Curbside Recycle Schedule</u> • October through April pick-ups are <u>first</u> & <u>third</u> Fridays only • May–September pickup every Friday 	Please Remember... do not place trash or recycle containers out earlier than 24 hrs in advance and remember to put them away promptly within 12 hours after pick-up. Reminder: The FI Lions Club aluminum can recycling bins will remain at both the beach ends and behind town hall. Please continue to support their cause. 
		The Fenwick Island Town Council and Staff wish you happy holidays and a safe and prosperous new year. See you at the beach!	



The Sixth Annual Fenwick Freeze

Bayard Street Beach, Fenwick Island, Delaware

January 1, 2010 @ 10:30 am

Registration 9:00 - 10:00 am

The Fenwick Freeze is a great way to welcome the New Year!
Join your family, friends and neighbors....put on your bathing suits and take the plunge!
Event will be held regardless of rain, shine, snow or sleet!

All registrants will receive a commemorative shirt!

Registration:

	<u>Thru 12/31/09</u>	<u>on 1/1/10</u>
1 person	\$20 each	\$25 each
2-4 people	\$16 each	\$20 each
5-8 people	\$12 each	\$15 each

How to Register:

- Now thru Dec. 24: Complete this form and mail to address below
- Dec. 30 & 31: Complete this form and take to Town Hall between the hours of 11:00am-1:00pm
(pre-registrants may also pick-up shirts on these days)
- Jan. 1: Complete form and bring to Bayard Street Beach from 9:00am -10:00 am.

Proceeds to benefit the Fenwick Island Lifeguard National Competition Fund

Mail entry form and check (made out to **FIBC [Fenwick Island Beach Committee]**) to:

The Fenwick Freeze

c/o Becka McWilliams, 927 Montgomery Street, Laurel, MD 20707

Printed Name	Shirt Size (S-M-L-XL)	E-mail	Signature - Acknowledging that you have read and agree to the release statement below

Release Statement:

I recognize the risks of illness and injury inherent in any exercise program. I agree to participate and assume all risks of the Fenwick Freeze Event and any related activities. In consideration of my participation in this event, I release and hold harmless the town of Fenwick Island, their affiliates, subsidiaries, principals, and directors, agents, servants, officers, employees and contractors from any and all claims, demands and causes of action of whatever nature, which I or my successors, heirs and assigns may have now or in the future in connection with my participation in this event and related activities. I agree to obey the rules of this event. I understand that there will be no refunds and the event director reserves the right to reject any entry. By signing above, I acknowledge that I have read and understand this release.